



Consumer Services Department

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CSD *News Release*

Friday, August 30, 2002

JUICE COMPANY PAYS FINE, CORRECTS PROBLEM OF SHORT WEIGHT CANS FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION BY CONSUMER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Following an investigation by the Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department (CSD), which determined that there was a general problem of short weight in cans of the Sunchy brand of juices, the manufacturer, Sunshine Bottling Company has paid a \$5,000 fine and moved to correct the problem.

The CSD first detected the problem in June when tests on a sample of Sunchy Guava Juice at a store in Hialeah found that all the cans in the sample contained less than the 11.5 fluid ounces indicated on the labels.

Subsequent tests on other sizes and flavors of Sunchy juices at grocery stores across the County also found underweight cans. The CSD removed some 4,447 cans from supermarket shelves for failing to meet the net-weight labeling requirements of the Miami-Dade County Code. That law prohibits the "Selling or offering or exposing for sale, less than the quantity represented of any commodity, thing or service."

With the permission of Sunshine Bottling Company tests were also carried out at the Company's plant, allowing CSD officers to determine that the problem was generalized and originated at the plant.

Sunshine Bottling cooperated with CSD's investigation and the Company's President Pedro Blanco blamed the short-weight on malfunctioning machinery.

In an 'Assurance of Voluntary Compliance' proposed by the Consumer Services Department and agreed to by Sunshine Bottling, the Company re-labeled its cans to more accurately reflect their actual contents and paid a \$5,000 civil penalty.

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The Miami Dade Consumer Services Department is an agency of Miami-Dade County government that protects consumers through complaint mediation, business regulation, and consumer education. The Department operates the Consumer Hotline (305) 375-3677, a central telephone number for consumer complaints and information.